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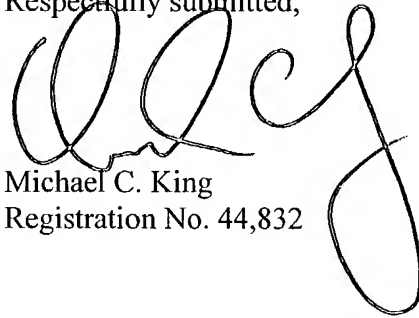
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1 Patentable Subject Matter

2 The Examiner has objected to Claims 9-11, 17-24, 29, 32-42, 45, 46, 60-63, 67, 68, 76, 77,
3 and 84-87, indicating that such claims include patentable subject matter, but are dependent upon a
4 rejected base claim. In light of the remarks above and the accompanying declaration and evidence of
5 earlier conception and diligence in reducing to practice, the base claims are patentable, and at this
6 time, applicants elect *not* to rewrite the claims to which the Examiner has objected.

7 In consideration of the preceding remarks and the amendment set forth above, it is apparent
8 that all claims in the present invention define a novel and non-obvious invention. Therefore, the
9 Examiner is requested to pass this case to issue at an early date. In the event that any further
10 questions remain, the Examiner is requested to telephone applicants' attorney at the number listed
11 below.

12 Respectfully submitted,

13 
14
15 Michael C. King
16 Registration No. 44,832

17 MCK/RMA:lrg

18 I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in a sealed
19 envelope as first class mail with postage thereon fully prepaid addressed to: Commissioner for Patents,
20 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on September 1, 2004.

21 Date: September 1, 2004

22 
23

24 Enclosures

25 Declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 with
26 Exhibits A and B
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